



The President's Daily Brief

9 January 1971

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Gromyko's protest yesterday against anti-Soviet demonstrations in the United States was unusually blunt. (Page 1)

Jordan's army clashed with the fedayeen in several areas yesterday. (Page 2)

The military situation in southern Laos is discussed on Page 3.

Uruguayan authorities have not received any demands from the kidnapers of the British ambassador. (Page 4)

Industrial and domestic consumers have been hurt by East German power shortages. (Page 5)

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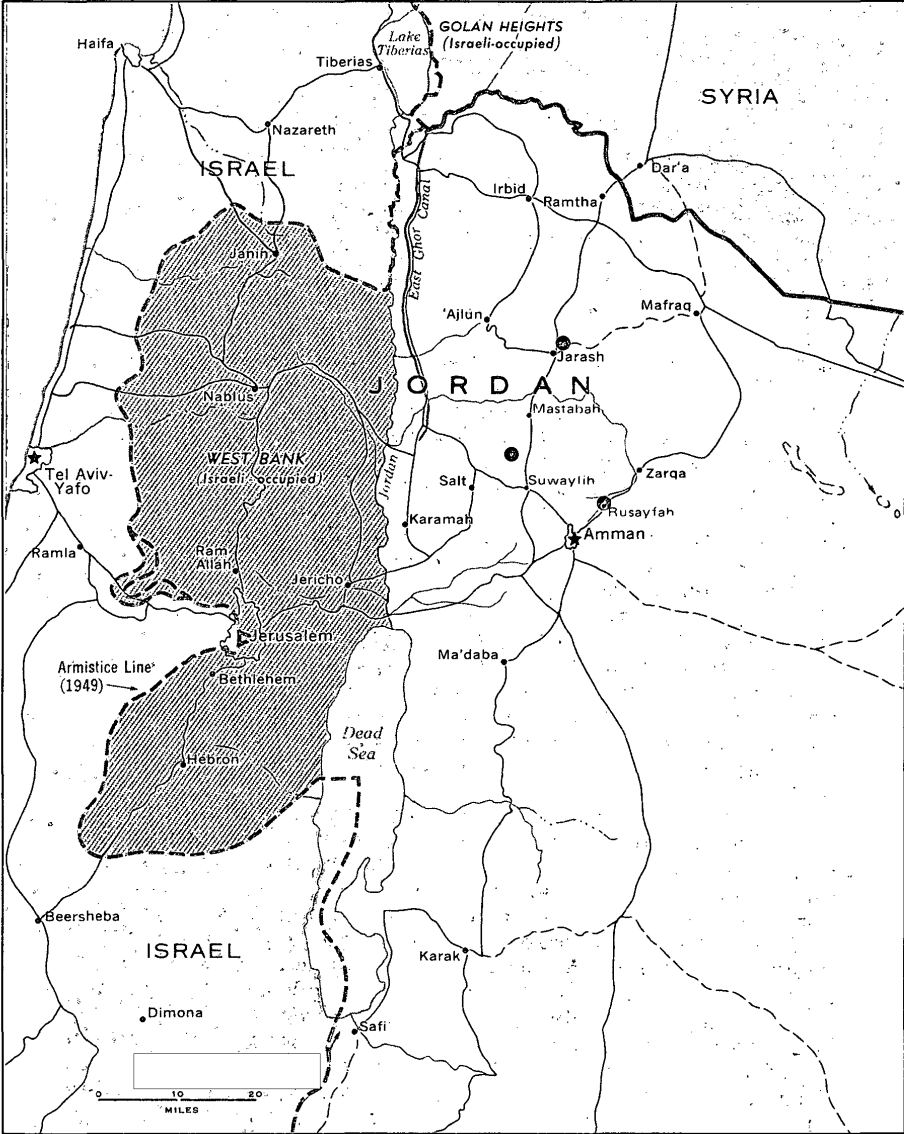
USSR

Gromyko delivered a very strong official protest to Ambassador Beam yesterday against the current anti-Soviet demonstrations in the United States and Washington's alleged failure to take the necessary measures to stop them. He warned that if the US did not ensure safe conditions for Soviet officials, the Soviet people may do something that the US would "not want and may not expect." Gromyko repeatedly stated that Moscow does not care how the US may choose to evaluate anything which might happen from the Soviet side. According to Ambassador Beam, Gromyko was in a grim mood, and his tone was unusually blunt. And to punctuate his remarks, the foreign minister announced at the end of the meeting that Ambassador Dobrynin would be returning to Moscow "for a brief period" on 10 January.

This is the most serious demarche that the Soviets have made regarding the rash of anti-Soviet incidents in the US. Gromyko's oral protest should not be interpreted as less serious than a written presentation; it appears that time was a factor. The Soviets seem almost at wit's end in this matter. The way they see it, their gradual responses in the face of increasing threats to their official representatives have been to no avail. Almost certainly, they genuinely believe the US can stop these attacks. Now, they appear to be threatening a more striking demonstrative act.

Among their options are a major demonstration against the US Embassy, an ostentatious postponement of any of a number of upcoming bilateral talks (or a more pointed threat of such a step), or some other loud political gesture. Gromyko's statement that the Soviets would not care how the US would evaluate any Soviet move of this sort, if and when it occurs, is particularly harsh.

JORDAN: Areas of Fighting



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JORDAN

Early yesterday the Jordanian Army moved against fedayeen centers north and east of Amman. In Rusayfah, about ten miles northeast of the capital, the army claims it blocked a sabotage plot by seizing a cache of arms.

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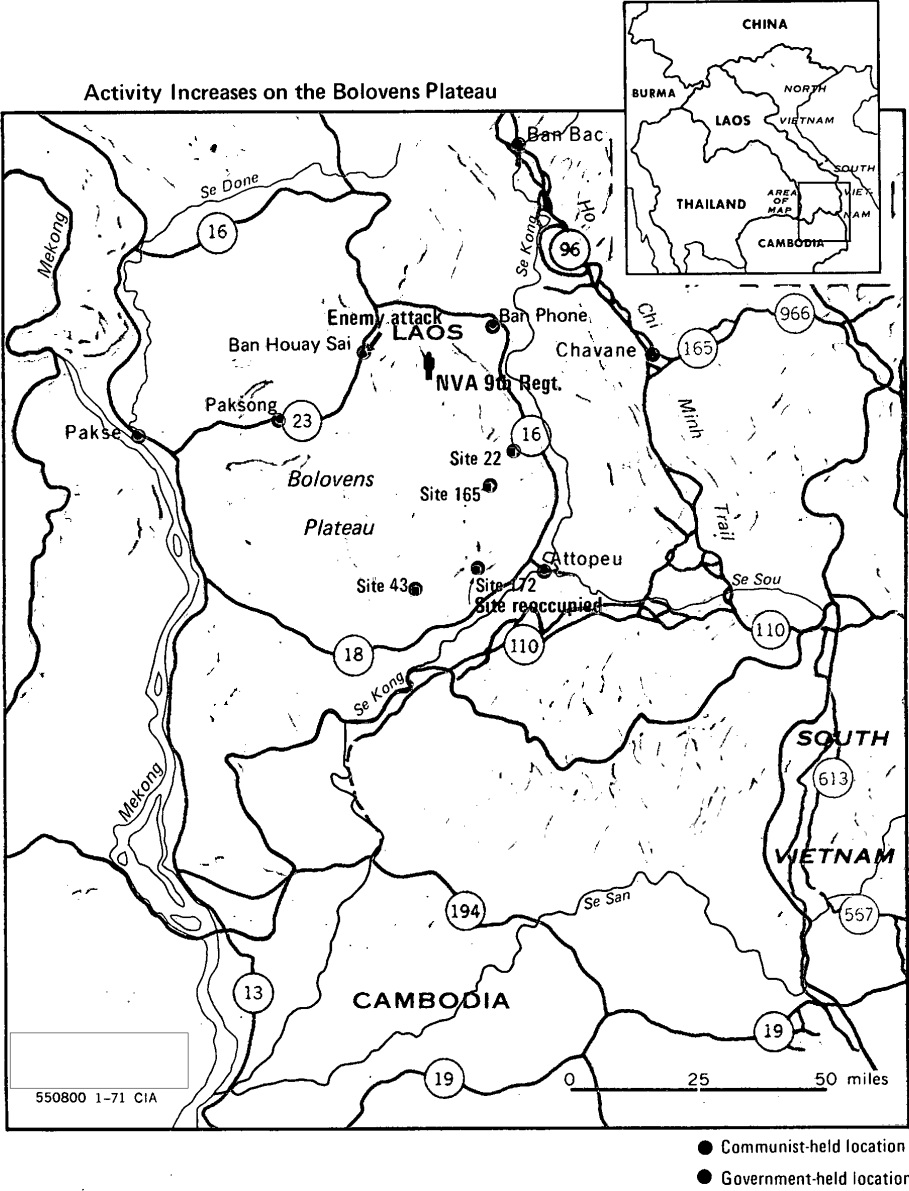
Later the fighting spread to a hilly part of the Salt-Suwaylih-Mastabah triangle northwest of Amman and continued into the night.

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The Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization was scheduled to meet last night and perhaps again today to develop a coordinated fedayeen position.

Decisions reached at these meetings are not likely to control various fedayeen elements that are becoming less and less responsive to leadership. The army also is becoming more inclined to launch independent actions and the departure of cease-fire supervisor Ladgham on Thursday apparently has given the army additional incentive to settle old scores.

Ladgham is still involved, however, even though he is in Cairo. Yesterday he got in touch with Jordan Premier Tal and asked him to allow observer teams to visit combat areas.



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LAOS

Military action continues to pick up in the northern and eastern areas of the Bolovens Plateau in southern Laos. Yesterday two newly deployed irregular battalions repulsed a heavy enemy attack against Ban Houay Sai, about 15 miles north of Paksong. Heavy tactical air support was used to beat back the estimated three-battalion enemy force. Only one irregular was killed, while 116 enemy bodies were found.

The attack may have been carried out by elements of the NVA 9th Regiment which moved onto the northern portion of the plateau last month. The size of the assault force suggests that the Communists intend to press southward. The enemy may have concluded that if they can threaten Paksong, the government would pull back from the bases along the eastern rim of the plateau.

We continue to believe that the irregular bases on the eastern rim of the plateau are still the enemy's main target. These bases--especially sites 43, 165, and 22--have been used to launch harassing raids and intelligence gathering operations against the Ho Chi Minh trail.

Enemy probes and attacks near these positions continue, but in recent weeks the government has improved the defenses of the bases and has brought in fresh reinforcements. On 7 January some of these reinforcements reoccupied Site 172, which had fallen into Communist hands two weeks ago.

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URUGUAY

The abduction yesterday of British ambassador Jackson adds a new factor to the case of the kidnaped US agronomist Claude Fly. Together with Brazilian consul Gomide, Fly has been held by the extreme leftist Tupamaros terrorist organization since last summer, when it murdered US AID official Mitrione.

Prospects for Fly's release appeared to be improving earlier this week. A Montevideo daily published the Tupamaros political manifesto, and other papers seemed ready to follow suit. This would have fulfilled the terrorists' demand that the major media publish the document. With Jackson in hand, they may now feel they have more bargaining leverage and so free Fly in the hope of gaining credit for a humanitarian gesture. Until they state their terms for freeing Jackson, however, we cannot be sure how they link the captives' status.

In any event, the Pacheco government is not likely to back off from its refusal to negotiate, a policy which had caused the Tupamaros to scale down their original demands. The terrorists' loss of much public sympathy has convinced Pacheco that his strategy is sound.

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NOTE

East Germany: Serious power shortages have temporarily shut down power to some plants and consumers as severe weather persists. Major petrochemical combines have been particularly hard hit by the shortages of electricity, gas, and coal, and the giant Leuna chemical combine may be forced to shut down completely until the situation improves. The populace is accustomed to power failures, which occur almost every winter. Workers in at least one plant, however, are grumbling about salary cuts they are forced to take because their plant is not open a full day.



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